

19 Feb 82

SECRET

25X1

Arabian Peninsula Stability: Talking Points

- In the general sense, we anticipate stability over the next year in this petroleum rich area. In the specific sense of Saudi Arabia, for instance:
 - A. There is no substantial organized opposition to the regime.
 - B. A sector by sector analysis of those areas of the society likely to be vulnerable to subversion yields support for this conclusion.
 - C. The role of "trickle down wealth" is significant.
 - D. The one area in which discontent and possibly subversion could erupt over the next decade is among those trained abroad who return to the country and find no political outlet.
- Two discordant areas either exist or are susceptible to disruption:
 - A. North Yemen:
 - Susceptibility of the regime to Soviet influence due to dependence on Soviets for armaments, and resultant indebtedness to them, National Democratic Front advances, and problems of President Salih with their northern neighbor, the Saudis.
 - During January talks between the YAR government and NDF, the NDF demanded that all North Yemeni forces be removed from the central part of the country, that the administration of that area be given to the NDF, and that NDF members be given cabinet posts and high positions in the armed forces.

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

2

- Potential importance of this instability to West and Saudi Arabia.

B. Shia Threat (Red marked portion of attached paper)

SECRET